

PROSPEROUS COUNTRY.

During political disputes aside and losses only at material conditions this country never had a more promising period than that which is at hand. The business situation is sound and bright in almost every aspect. The crops of the year have prospered decidedly and the harvests are bountiful. The yield of corn is estimated at 2,500,000,000 bushels, which is 16 per cent more than that of last year.

The wheat crop is estimated at 650,000,000 bushels—an amount beyond the comprehension of the ordinary intellect. The oat crop of 887,000,000 bushels is just about 100,000,000 more than that of last year. The aggregate bulk yield of all reported grain crops is about 7 per cent more than last year. The south, thanks to its enormous profits on its last edition crop, has more money than ever in its treasury.

The activity of the market for railroad and other shares quoted on the stock exchange was entirely unprecedented last month, in the face of a presidential election. The October bank clearings, indicating the relative volume of business activity, showed remarkable gains when compared with the statistics for October of last year. The improvements in the iron and steel trade has shown in the rapid advance in the price of shares of the United States Steel corporation and other large companies.

Business conditions in almost every line of production, commerce and finance are better than ever before in modern times. Golden opportunities are ripe for every hand that is skilled to pluck them.

WEARY OF WAR.

The heart of the world, it seems, has grown war weary. For countless ages the tears of widowed women and the agonized faces of dead men have pleaded in vain for a better and more humane way of adjusting international differences than an appeal to the sword. Human sympathy and human sorrow have alike been ignored. Pestilence and famine have followed in the wake of rampaging armies. And after it all, after the outpouring of wrath and hate and sin and crime, too often agains innocent communities and persons, the strutting ruffian who led the conquering host has returned to his own country to be honored for innumerable outrages against humanity. One of the outrages perpetrated against his neighbors would damn him to everlasting infamy and disgrace.

But the dawn of a better time has arrived. The nations of the earth, perhaps having in mind the terrible tragedy now being enacted on the shores of the Yellow Sea, are turning toward peace. This is manifested in the creation of arbitration, half a score of which have been negotiated and signed within the last twelve months. England and France, enemies since the battle of Agincourt, led, first, with a general agreement to settle their minor differences peacefully—with a treaty defining and forever disposing of the frontier dispute in Africa, which was uncharged with the most hateful possibilities. Germany and England then agreed on a basis of arbitration, and half a dozen lesser nations followed.

SUICIDE AND INSURANCE.

Here are the figures contained in Mr. W. H. Lawton's article in the November North American Review. In 1891 the number of suicides in the United States was 3,500; in 1893, 8,500. Allowing for the growth of population, here is an increase of 100 per cent. We can bewail a swollen divorce roll; the growing size of the suicide roll is as ominous, says the New York Globe.

If the above figures are grim, one fact in connection with them is gruesome. Twenty years ago the ratio of deaths by suicide among insurance policy holders was one-half of 1 per cent. Last year such deaths were 3 per cent. The general increase in the suicide rate was 100 per cent; among the insured it was 800 per cent. Why the difference? Twenty years ago American insurance policies generally provided for no payment if death was self-inflicted. Today, out of eighty-old-line companies of the United States and Canada, but one refuses to accept liability for suicide, and this one retains the "reserve" on the policy.

Passing the question of compelling the non-suiciding to pay, in larger premiums or smaller dividends, sums of money to the beneficiaries of suicides. It is obvious that insurance company managers, by their present policy, come curiously near to inciting crime. If it is continued we are likely to see the suicide rate mount yet higher. Only eight companies, it is true give the insured permission to blow out his brains as soon as the policy is signed, while sixty-one reserve the right to contest if the death occurs within one, two or three years. But these restrictions, while they may diminish deviant fraud, are more nominal than real. Life insurance is now almost universal, and even though, when taking out a policy, an applicant may have no thought of self-destruction, it is dangerous to have a temptation constantly before him. We punish arson. We not only do not punish, but actually reward a kind of crime quite as bad. If the insurance companies, pressed by competition, have no virtue enough to apply the remedy which is obvious, it is time for statutes, passed in the interests of public morality, forbidding the payment of an insurance policy when death is voluntary.

PRESERVATION OF THE FORESTS.

President Roosevelt's letter to the irrigation congress seems to indicate that in his judgment the next great step forward in the management of the natural resources of the great west

is the development of a rational system for the control of the public forests. The national irrigation policy is failing. There are no further cures of irrigation to be wished, unless there are individuals who hope to find a means to appropriate for irrigation water greater in excess of requirements from the national domain, in still others who expect settlers to release from the obligation to re-lease anything whatever happens to the uses of the reservoirs or works built by national government. Possibly the principle is not yet settled as to whether national aid shall be given only to the great and rich enterprises which will never invite private capital, or be extended as far as possible to the extension of private capital. These are those who will ultimately agitate for action in all directions, but the president's mind seems to be directed to the preservation of the forest cover for the headwaters of our streams.

POPULATION INCREASING.

From the election returns in a presidential year statisticians are accustomed to estimate population by multiplying the vote cast by five. This method applied to New Mexico returns would give the population of the territory as 236,000. This is probably too low, for in New Mexico, says the New Mexican, owing to the great distance that many people must travel to their polling place, and because the exciting features of a presidential election have but a remote influence upon territorial elections, the full vote is never brought out, although this year a larger vote was cast in the territory than ever before, and with the exception of a few counties, a larger percentage of the total vote than ever before was polled. However, multiplying the vote cast by six will probably yield the population figures at least the true figures lie between the multiples of five and six. This would give the population of New Mexico, upon a liberal estimate, as 250,000, over one-million of whom dwell in San Miguel county, with a population of 29,000, Bernallito coming second and Rio Arriba third with Santa Fe sixth.

LEADS THE WORLD.

The total deposits in all the savings banks of the world, according to latest official information received by the department of commerce and labor through its bureau of statistics, amounted to over \$10,500,000,000, contributed by \$2,640,000 depositors. Of this total the United States shows aggregate deposits of \$3,661,179,000, credited to 7,368,000 depositors. As the figures used in arriving at the grand totals cover about one-half of the population of the world, viz., over 770 million, it appears that the United States, with less than 2% per cent of the total population considered, contributes over 20 per cent of the total savings deposits recorded.

If the territorial printing was let by bids a saving of \$5,000 a year would be effected.

According to the Chicago Tribune there were 46,478 homicides in the United States between 1890 and 1900. Business is booming in this city. Trade was never better and new houses are being erected on every hand.

With only a thousand votes against joint statehood in Arizona the measure can be passed and carried with a whoop.

In 1890 the total cost of the federal government was eleven million dollars. This year the expense is nearly six hundred millions.

By putting all the county officers on salaries and cutting off numerous territorial statistics taxes in New Mexico can be reduced one-half.

There can now no longer be any doubt regarding the prosperity of the farming community. The farm value of this year's principal crops will be the largest in the history of the country—exceeding \$4,000,000,000 for the first time on record.

December 1, 1904, will be a great day in the annals of the Mexican republic. On that day Gen. Diaz will be inaugurated for the new term as president to which he was recently elected. This is to be Gen. Diaz's seventh term, and it will very likely be his last.

In speaking of shuns that should be corrected this paper desires that it should be understood that reference is made to certain evils that exist in no captions spirit. Publicity is given that the people may know and that discussion may lead to reduction of taxes and better government.

There is a great misapprehension as to the number of millionaires in New York and in the world. Chasenay M. Depew said recently that there were 100,000 millionaires in the United States. According to a great commercial agency, which is probably nearer right, there are only 7,000.

One of the most remarkable prisoners in the United States is a convict in Sing Sing, who edits the prison paper, The Star of Hope. He is there for burglary, but in his time has been lawyer, reporter, confidence man, secretary to a hedgehog of Egypt, preacher, forger and politician. He is an Englishman by birth.

If the idea of Delegates Roddy, Col. Twitchell, Martin Lohman, Felix Martinez, Gov. Prince and others, as embodied in the Elephant Butte dam resolutions at the irrigation congress in El Paso can be carried out, it will be the greatest blessing that has come upon New Mexico in many a day.

One of the worst grafts in New Mexico is the hordes of legislative employees. The territory squanders about 10,000 every two years on this political driftwood. The nuisance is growing and unless public sentiment is aroused the expense will increase.

A half dozen competent employees in each house of the legislative assembly can easily do all the work. From eighty to one hundred clerks are employed, and they are a drag on the transaction of legislative business.

Albuquerque is destined to be a great manufacturing city. Coal and iron and other minerals are near at hand. Big steel plants will be located here when the city's railroad system is completed.

Governor Otero in seven years service as governor has acquired a large sheep ranch on the Pecos and he would not suffer want if that extra \$2,000 a year contingent fund was cut off.

The jails of New Mexico are a disgrace to modern civilization, and yet

they cost the people more than any other item of its expenses. It takes nearly the whole levy of Bernallito county to maintain the jail.

The offices of territorial auditor and traveling auditor should be merged. All the work of the two offices could be done by one competent man and he would not be compelled to work eight hours a day at the job.

The Sunday law of this territory should either be enforced or repealed. In certain counties the law is enforced, but in others the grand juries are discharged and the officials wink at the non-enforcement of the law.

President McKinley and Secretary Tamm should issue an immediate statement showing the receipts and expenses of the late territorial fair. The subscribers of the fair demand this statement as soon after a fair as possible.

Gov. Otero and the New Mexicans at the world's fair did good work for the territory yesterday.

When you are beat you are beat, and Governor Peabody will not contest the will of the people of Colorado.

Senator Andrews believes in building up the republican party in this territory, and he will be a safe and successful leader.

The Bible which was owned and used by Shakespeare was sold in London at public auction for \$1,050. It is to be brought to America.

It would be easier to re-organize the journal to suit the republican party than it would be to re-organize the party to suit that erratic paper.

Official returns from Missouri make material changes in the figures herein given out. Roosevelt will have \$6,000,000 plurality and Folk 27,000.

In the long years which, we hope, still lie ahead of Grandpa Davis, he may come to look upon the campaign of 1904 as merely a pleasant memory.

Adriens has not yet confirmed the killing of General Kuroki, and the world is hopeful that it will not be confirmed. Such men deserve to live until naturally called for.

The Journal states that there is no republican party in this county. As that party has a healthy working majority of several hundred, and has had for several years, the statement of the Journal carries no weight. That paper probably means that the party is not composed of people to suit its splenarian taste. It probably objects to common people belonging to the party. It wants its leaders taken from the severest committee of the goo-goo's little crowd.

(From Monday's Daily Citizen.)

The boss business is about as bad in this territory.

Put a holiday advertisement in the Citizen and it will bring returns.

Albuquerque has grown more this year than any other city in the southwest.

Hoddy is not dead politically. It is impossible to kill an honest man in politics.

All necessary reforms in this territory can be accomplished by the republican party.

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The officials of the fair association are trying to secure a guarantee fund of \$10,000 for next year's exhibition.

This would insure the biggest fair ever held in the southwest.

It does not pay a city to hold a poor fair, and it is really easier to hold a good one if a big fair is held everybody interested gets a big return on the money invested.

(From Tuesday's Daily Citizen.)

A great deal of dust has been kicked up about the Bernallito county grafters.

They are kindergarten pupils in corruption compared with the Santa Fe grade of grafters.

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If Albuquerque wished to brag about her "per capita" reference could be made to the fact that the banks have over three million dollars on deposit.

Here is a depressing item for the democrats. The national republican committee has an unexpected balance on hand for the next campaign of \$400,000.

Pointing the bills in Spanish at orbital rates costs the territory several thousand dollars each legislative session. This relic of Spain should be abolished.

The settlement of the water dispute with Mexico is worth millions of dollars to New Mexico and New Mexico. Irrigation works on the Rio Grande can now proceed.

A saving of \$150 a month can be made by abolishing the territorial historian. Another \$150 per month could be saved by doing away with the fish warden.

The state of Missouri lost by fire its magnificent building at the World's Fair last Saturday night. The structure cost \$25,000, and was the finest state building on the grounds.

The Journal and New Mexican are full of wrath against Frank A. Hibbell and other republicans because they are not satisfied with the vote of this county for delegate. At both these papers bolted the republican tickets, it is not consistent on their part to criticize those who followed their bad example.

Governor Otero is becoming a reformer. He has returned his pass on the Albuquerque street railway. It is not announced that he has returned his passes on the other railroads.

There are too many territorial boards of all sorts and sizes in New Mexico. They are a heavy item of expense. Half of them could be abolished with benefit to the people.

The most densely populated portion of New Mexico is precinct No. 26, this city. This precinct is three-fourths of a mile wide and a mile and a half long, and east at the recent election.

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